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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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# **FOUR INDICTED FOR THEFT OF BOEING HELICOPTER PARTS**

**PHOENIX, ARIZONA** -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on August 14, 2002, a federal grand jury at Phoenix, Arizona, returned a 38-count indictment against four individuals: Patrick T. Buckner, 41, of Gilbert, Arizona; Terry G. Capehart, 56, of Mena, Arkansas; Rodger J. Mesler, Jr., 51, formerly of Gilbert, Arizona but now residing in The Philippines; John E. Reagan, 59, of Mesa, Arizona.

Essentially, the indictment alleges that Buckner, Mesler and Reagan, who worked for McDonnell Douglas's commercial helicopter division, which was taken over by Boeing, defrauded their employer by stealing helicopter parts, selling them and then getting paid for the parts. The indictment alleges that they sold the parts to, among other users, service centers that repaired McDonnell Douglas helicopters and that persons connected with the service centers paid the employees for continued access to stolen parts. The indictment also charges that the defendants sold parts through Capehart to others, including South Korea. The defendants have been directed to appear for their arraignment on the charges on August 28, 2002, at the U. S. District Court.

(MORE)

The federal indictment charges Buckner with violating the following section of Title 18 of the United States Code: 1 count of Section 371, conspiracy; 24 counts of Sections 1343 and 1346, defrauding Boeing (McDonnell Douglas) of its property and his honest services; 2 counts of Section 1341, mail fraud; 2 counts of Section 2314, interstate transportation of stolen property; 7 counts of Section 1957, money laundering. It charges Capehart with 1 count of conspiracy, 24 counts of defrauding Boeing of its property and the honest services of the other defendants, 1 count of mail fraud and 1 count of interstate transportation of stolen property. It charges Mesler with 1 count of conspiracy and 24 counts of defrauding Boeing of its property and his honest services, and it charges Reagan with 1 count of conspiracy, 24 counts of defrauding Boeing of its property and his honest services, 1 count of money laundering and 1 count of violating Section 1001, making a false statement to a federal law enforcement official. The indictment also seeks forfeiture from the defendants of property involved in the charges.

Convictions for the charges alleged in the indictment carry the following maximum penalties: conspiracy – 5 years and a \$250,000 fine or both; defrauding an employer of property and honest services – 5 years and a \$250,000 fine; mail fraud – 5 years and a \$250,000 fine; interstate transportation of stolen property – 10 years and a \$250,000 fine; money laundering – 10 years and a \$250,000 fine.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

CASE NUMBER: CR-01-1104-PHX-EHC  
RELEASE NUMBER: 2002-140

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